DATE: Tuesday, May 6, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
LOCATION: Virtual meeting using Zoom
ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:	Staff:
Aaron Martin, Essex Adam Wechsler, People with Disability Bob Henneberger, Older Adults Bruce Hoar, Williston Chris Damiani, GMT Chris Yuen, Essex Junction Deirdre Holmes, Charlotte Faith Dall, VTrans Holly Francis, Environment Joe Segale, Huntington Jon Rauscher, Winooski Jonathon Weber, Local Motion Josh Arneson, Richmond Mary Anne Michaels, Rail Phillip Peterson, Burlington Roger Thompson, FHWA Sam Andersen, GBIC Tom DiPietro, South Burlington	Charlie Baker, Executive Director Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Director Bryan Davis, Senior Transportation Planner Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Planner Chris Dubin, Senior Transportation Planner Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner Sai Sarepalli, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer Guests: Bob Klinefelter, VTrans Carolyn Cota, VTrans Mike LaCroix, VTrans Arial Greenlaw, HNTB Josh Olund, HNTB Steve Spear, HNTB Laura Wheelock, Burlington Evan Haugh, VHB Jenn Conley, VHB Will Hodgson, GMT

1. Call to Order, Welcome + Attendance
   Phillip Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

2. Consent Agenda
   SAM ANDERSEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY CHRIS YUEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of April 1, 2025 Minutes
   SAM ANDERSEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2025, SECONDED BY BOB HENNEBERGER. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Public Comment Period
   No comments from the public.

5. FY2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
   Marshall Distel, CCRPC, reminded the TAC of his presentation last month that included more specific details about the UPWP process. The memo in this month's agenda packet includes an overview of the FY26 UPWP development process, a breakdown of new transportation funding

requests by project type, and a timeline of action as part of the UPWP development and approval process.

JON RAUSCHER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND RECOMMEND IT TO THE CCRPC BOARD FOR ADOPTION AT THE MAY 21, 2025 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOE SEGALE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. CCRPC Pre-qualified Consultant Selection

Bryan Davis, CCRPC, explained that the CCRPC uses a process to prequalify consultants which then allows projects to be assigned to specific consultants based on their qualifications for certain topic areas rather than needing to go through a procurement process for each project. The contracts for current prequalified consultants will expire June 30, 2025, so CCRPC needs to solicit, select, and approve prequalified consultants for FY26 UPWP projects, which begin on July 1, 2025.

As outlined in the agenda item memo, the CCRPC released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on March 14, 2025 for Planning, Engineering and Environmental Services in five topic areas. The CCRPC received 18 proposals. A committee reviewed and selected firms to recommend for approval in each of the five topic areas.

Joe Segale asked about the topic areas and whether consultants requested which ones they are interested in, or if the review committee decides which ones they are most qualified, and if this process of specific topic areas inhibits us in some way. Christine noted that in the previous prequalifying round experience, using specific topic areas was a way to provide smaller firms an opportunity to be more competitive with larger firms by task area rather than limiting them if they don't have other qualifications for other task areas. Eleni agreed that this approach has worked for us but we could use a different process in future rounds.

JOE SEGALE MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC APPROVE THE SELECTED CONSULTANTS IDENTIFIED IN THE MEMO, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE, FOR PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BRUCE HOAR AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Winooski River Bridge Update & Proposed Detour

Laura Wheelock, Burlington, and Bob Klinefelter, VTrans, introduced the Burlington-Winooski Bridge project which will replace the river bridge in the near future. This will require lane closures that will have regional impacts on travel and necessitate off-site detours during construction. The bridge carries more than 20,000 vehicles and hundreds of pedestrians/bicyclists per day as well as several busses and emergency vehicles.

Josh Olund and Arial Greenlaw, HNTB, gave a project overview presentation with conceptual images of the project, proposed bridge lane configurations and traffic movement during construction phases, estimated project timeline, a map of the official signed detour route, and a discussion of accommodating emergency services.

Joe Segale asked about the AM peak hour implications of the proposed lane configurations, which favors northbound traffic. Arial noted that the PM peak hour is more extreme and favoring southbound flow would limit opportunities for left turns of northbound traffic.

Tom DiPietro noted that Lime Kiln Road was mentioned as a potential non-official detour route that drivers may take, and he'd like to have a follow up discussion with someone to coordinate this project with the Rt 2 paving project in 2027. Carolyn Cota, VTrans, said she will follow up and noted that the bridge project won't go to construction for another few years.

Sam Andersen said thank you for the presentation which provided more accurate information about the plan. She asked about emergency services and the likely route they may take, which could be southbound to the UVM Medical Center. Arial said the team has been working with regional emergency services and is working on a similar project that uses a preemption signal system, so there are some other options being consider for emergency services. Josh noted they've heard stories from emergency services staff about accommodating flow in both directions.

Chris Damiani said GMT was aware of some of the closure plans and timing but learned some new information and would like to have a follow up conversation regarding the Riverside Avenue route which could have an impact on GMT services. The consultant team will follow up and Arial noted that the preemption services used for emergency services could also work for transit service.

Adam Wechsler asked via chat when the full bridge closure would occur. Josh responded that a short duration full closure would be overnight or one day and therefore isn't on the calendar. The longer 4-6 week closure is not scheduled but is likely in 2028 timeframe. There may also be seasonal restrictions based on school calendars and other factors.

Phillip asked if there have been discussions about optimized signal timing along the detour route. Arial said their team has experience coordinating with multiple municipalities about key intersections, access points, having a single contact person, and other critical issues. Even with a plan there are things that will have to be monitored and updated along the way.

Bob Henneberger asked if the bridge project funding was under federal review. Carolyn responded that the project is still in the VTrans budget and is moving forward.

Sai Sarepalli asked if the team talked to school districts about potential traffic impacts. Josh said they didn't talk to high schools but found that most traffic disruption may occur during the summer when school isn't in session. Laura noted that the traffic changes will have impacts countywide so they will be using many tools to convey project updates, timelines, impacts and more. They will also follow up with schools to make sure they're not missing any regional connections.

Eleni suggested the team ask neighboring RPCs, particularly Northwest RPC, for feedback and conversations and perhaps they would also want a presentation like this one.

Sai said the VTrans Transportation Management Center (TMC) might need to be involved in the project. Arial agreed and said this is currently a proof-of-concept phase.

Laura noted that Eleni and Jason are project contacts at CCRPC for TAC members. Project webpage: https://www.burlingtonwinooskibridge.vtransprojects.vermont.gov/

8. Regional Safety Action Plan Update

Sai Sarepalli, CCRPC, introduced the project which is important to apply for federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding. The team is using crash data to identify specific locations of concern and how to prioritize them. A public survey is coming soon. Project website: https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/corridors-circulation/regional-safety-action-plan/

Evan Haugh and Jenn Conley, VHB, gave a presentation and project update. Completing this plan will make the region eligible to apply for federal SS4A Implementation and Demonstration grants. This is a large grant program to address safety issues and make improvements to the transportation network. Grant applications could be from individual municipality or multi-agency and the program is highly competitive.

The team has analyzed safety data, identified high injury networks, and is currently identifying strategies which will lead to prioritizing the segments. The high injury network includes Rt 7, a segment of I-89, Rt 2 to the islands and through South Burlington, Rt 2A, East Road, Blakely Road, and others.

Phillip noted recent federal guidance indicates that anything bike related is not favorable anymore. He also noted that the SS4A deadline is this June and asked if the plan be ready by then? Evan noted this plan will help with applications to next year's grant round rather than this year. Eleni noted that there is SS4A grant funding for this year and next year but is not sure if there will be federal funding in the future.

Joe reflected that the map showed that crashes were spread out in county but the high injury network didn't reflect a lot of roadways/segments in rural areas. Did the team look at "exposure" to risk or only specific crashes? Evan said the plan goes beyond just crashes and includes roadways that reflect characteristics of high injury network.

Sai noted that first slide says this plan is grant funded but it's not, it's funded through the CCRPC's UPWP. Here is a link to the survey as a way for TAC members to provide feedback on potential projects in their cities/towns: https://tinyurl.com/regionalsafetysurvey

Sam asked about the pavement condition on Rt 127 in Burlington and Philip said Burlington intends to do some patching this year.

9. Chittenden County Projects in FY 26 VTrans Transportation Capital Program

Christine Forde, CCRPC, explained that each year the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) develops a Transportation Capital Program that is submitted to the Vermont Legislature for approval. The Capital Program includes proposed funding amounts by project or program for the

upcoming state fiscal year, beginning July 1, and projected budget amounts for the next three state fiscal years. The agenda item memo shows Chittenden County projects included in the State Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Capital Program.

She noted this is an evolving program that gets updated. Chittenden County projects that are in the TIP are also included in the STIP. She also shared the VTransparency website (https://vtransparency.vermont.gov/) and the Project link (https://vtransparency.vermont.gov/pages/projects2) which has more information about projects. Faith Dall noted that only STIP projects are on this webpage.

10. MRGP Segment Upgrades - Conceptual Plans and Cost Estimates
    Chris Dubin, CCRPC, shared an example project that CCRPC staff can help municipalities to develop conceptual plans and cost estimates for areas that are non-compliant with the municipal road general permit (MRGP) program. We can provide consultant assistance to identify best management practices, conceptual plans and cost estimates for improvements. CCRPC has funding to support this work so please be in touch if your community would like to complete these types of projects.

    Chris noted that Municipalities must return a signed letter by May 23, 2025, to be eligible. Details, documents, and the Initial Funding Offers are on the AOT website.

11. FY25 UPWP Transportation Projects
    See bulleted list at the end of the agenda for current CCRPC projects. TAC members are encouraged to ask staff for more information on the status of any of these ongoing or recently completed projects.

12. CCRPC Board Meeting Report
    In April the Board heard an update on the draft FY26 UPWP and budget, Act 181 implementation update (future land use map and housing targets) and ECOS Plan adoption timeline, board development committee update, outreach and engagement update, staff introductions, and other Executive Director/Chair updates.

13. Chair/Members' Items
    a. **Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program** provides funding for municipalities to implement best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). Municipalities must return a signed letter **by May 23, 2025,** to be eligible. Details, documents, and the Initial Funding Offers are on the AOT website.
    b. Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation **2025 River & Roads Trainings**: https://dec.vermont.gov/event/vermont-rivers-roads-tier-2-and-tier-3-training
    c. **ADA and Title VI One-Sheets for Local Public Agencies**: VTrans has designed one-pagers to simplify your understanding of ADA and Title VI compliance. Compliance isn't just a legal requirement—it's about safeguarding vulnerable communities and ensuring everyone has equal access. Get started here: ADA and Title VI.

d. **Complete Streets open office hours**: Local Motion's Complete Streets team will have open office hours on the **3rd Tuesday of each month**, 12:30-1:30 PM, where anyone can drop in virtually with questions on how to improve walking, biking, or rolling in their community. Join using Google Meet at meet.google.com/xrq-dtma-dwh or call in at +1 575-912-1614 PIN: 745 527 560#
e. **USDOT Discretionary Grants:** There is currently uncertainty about discretionary grants until further review by the new administration.
    i. The Department of Transportation has released the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. The SS4A program provides funding for two main types of grants: 1) Planning and Demonstration Grants; and 2) Implementation Grants. The deadline for applications is June 26, 2025, at 5:00 pm (EDT).

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 9:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Davis